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H – 1023

International Court of Justice

H1023-0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

1 July 1946

COMMISSIONER:

Colonel A.M.S. Neave

POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission convened at 1130 hours.)

GRAF von ROEDERN, a witness took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Will the witness stand, raise his right hand and repeat after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

Q. What is your full name?

A Graf von Roedern.

Q You may sit down.

Dr. GRUBE: Dr. Grube for Dr. Servatus, I have a request to the commission and the prosecution on the just matters against the NSDAP that the work is a 5th Columnist in foreign countries. One means of that work of Fifth Columnist was supposedly the so-called **Auslandsorganisation** foreign organization of the NSDAP. Therefore the Defense is compelled to hear that witness not only on the weaker points of the indictment but above all to the charge that the

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Auslandsorganization is a foreign organization acted as a Fifth Column. I therefore feel that we will not get along with the usual time of three hours allotted to one witness and I would like to request to limit the hearing of this witness not to the usual three hours but to permit approximately four hours. And I might add that that would be the first witness for the Political Leaders who would be here longer than three hours. I therefore, would like you to permit the hearing four hours.

COLONEL NEAVE: That would be four hours including cross-examination. That is what you mean?

DR. GRUBE: It is.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think we will hear the witness first and it will depend upon the relevancy of his evidence on what decision I will make for the Commissioner who will follow me will make. But I agree that in general it does seem to be a big subject. Have you not covered this at all with any of your witnesses?

DR. GRUBE: No, not before the Commission.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: I would like to say the matter was very fully covered before the Tribunal during the Hess case. Certainly Bohle was called as a witness simply on the question on the Fifth Columnist of the Auslandsorganisation and dealt with the whole matter.

COLONEL A.M.S. NEAVE: Did the counsel for the Political Leaders examine the witness? Dr. Grube, you ought to know.

DR. GRUBE: There was no witness heard on that subject before the commission.

COLONEL A.M.S. NEAVE: I know that. The question is whether the

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you are being asked is whether Defense Counsel for the Political Leaders examined the witnesses ~~Goele and~~ Boehler during the Hess case.

DR. GRUBE: I don't think so. I don't know that. As far as I know Boehler was called as witness for Hess and was called as such witness for the Counsel of Political Leaders.

COLONEL A.M.S. NEAVE: So he appeared to describe the Auslandsorganisatio?

DR. GRUBE: Yes. He was heard on the Auslandsorganisation to some extent but most of his answers were highly spoken and he did not make any definite complete statements.

COLONEL NEAVE: Will you obtain before the Commission resumes at 2 o'clock, a copy of the transcript of the evidence of ~~Goele and~~ Boehler on this subject which I suppose took place some time around March or April. In the meantime we will proceed with the witness but I would like you to bear in mind what has just been said and then whether we should make an exception of the rule that witnesses will be heard for three hours will depend on how far this subject has been covered. Will you go on?

DIRECT EXAMINATION:

By Dr. Grube----------

Q. When and where were you born?

A. November 14, 1911 in Berlin.

Q. What educational and professional training have you had?

A. I attended the so-called Gymnasium then I studied law in Geneva, Berlin, and Munich. I obtained two German legal degrees, one called referendar and the other called assessor and I worked also in a bank and in a trading house.

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Q. Since when did you belong to the Nazi Party?

A. Since April 1, 1933.

Q. Why did you join the party?

A. Previously I had belonged to the Youthstal, the Junior Organization of the Stahleh and I felt that after the seizure of power of the NSDAP, national forces should unite and forget their previous differences and unite for the re-building of Germany.

Q. Is it true that from April 1938 to the fall of 1939 you worked as head of the League Office of the Foreign Organizatiom of the NSDAP and that at the same time you acted as an assistant judge in the court of the Foreign Organization?

A. Yes, I worked as such in the head office of the Foreign Organization.

Q. Is it true that you participated in the fall of 39 in the political labor campaign and that subsequently you were an Ordnance Officer to General von Reindstedt?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it true that from November 1940 until April 1942 you conducted the affairs of the Chief of the Foreign Organization in France?

A. Yes.

Q. And from May 1942 until February 1943 you were Chief of a company in the African campaign?

A. Yes.

Q. And from March 1943 until November 44 you were personnel assistant to the Chief of the Foreign Organization for Bohle?

A. Yes.

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Q. And what was your function in that capacity?

A. My function was to prepare the decisions of the Gauleiter. I was liaison man to an organization called Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle. I was the representative for the prosedution in the party court and by request of Gauleiter Bohle I handled the personnel files of the employees of the Foreign Office.

Q. What was the purpose of the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP?

A. Like that of any other Gau within the Reich, it was the formation of the foreign organization to care for all Germans abroad and to coordinate their thinking on the lines of National Socialism. It was its function to make the Germans abroad active economically and politically for the Reich and to fight the hostile attitude against foreigners or against foreign countries within the Reich.

Q. Who was eligible for membership in the foreign organization?

A. Only German citizens. That means Germans who possessed a German passport.

Q. Now that means that foreigners could not join the foreign organization of the NSDAP?

A. No foreigners could become members of the organization.

Q. Could former Germans who had acquired a citizenship of another country, could they join the foreign organization?

A. German citizens who had acquired the nationality of a foreign country and therefore in accordance with German laws had lost the German citizenship, could not become members of the organization.

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Q. What do you understand by the word Volksdeutsche?

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Really, all this evidence of the members of the Auslandsorganisation has all been gone into exhaustively before the Tribunal so this evidence cannot be of assistance to members of the Tribunal all over again. It is purely of an explanatory nature having been given once it cannot possibly assist the cause of the Political Leaders by being repeated again now, particularly if it was made by the chief.

~~COLONEL NEAVE~~ Bohle's affidavit was submitted and read to the Tribunal at Page 6447 of the English Transcript. He was then asked various questions on behalf of some of the defendants and he was then cross-examined by myself commencing on Page 6454.

COLONEL NEAVE: Dr. Grube, in order to be quite fair about this, we will withdraw this witness now but we will hold him in Nuremberg. I wish to examine the transcript and discuss the matter with you tomorrow morning. Have you got another witness on the list after this one?

DR. GRUBE: No sir, not yet. Witness Dr. Mueller is scheduled for tomorrow morning.

COLONEL NEAVE: I see. I can quite understand there might be some new subjects you want to bring up through von Roedern but I can't possibly make a decision on that ~~letter if~~ e matter unless I had the opportunity to read the transcript of the evidence of Bohle and in order to be fair to you we will withhold this witness until tomorrow before reaching a decision

DR. GRUBE: Would that not be possible Mr. Commissioner to hear the witness on those general charges made against the Political Leaders, for instance crimes against the main conspiracy, etc?

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COLONEL NEAVE: Is he being called on that subject as well? That is not exactly what your application says. It says that the Auslandsorganization was not engaged in the conspiracy. That may not be a correct translation into the German but that is what it appears to be.

DR. GRUBE: We understand it is the Political Leaders of the Auslandsorganisation.

COLONEL NEAVE: It is the political leaders as a whole. That is what you mean isn't it?

~~Sok~~ DR. GRUBE: Yes.

COLONEL NEAVE: Well I think as the whole of the evidence appears to concern the Auslandsorganisation it would be very much better if we considered this matter again after we read the transcript. I don't at all suggest there may not be other matters on which he can give evidence but in order to decide what they are, I wish to read the transcript first. Now you say that Mueller---- Can Mueller not be called today?

DR. GRUBE: I haven't quite finished talking to him but I could try to talk to him now and possibly we could start with him at 2 o'clock.

COLONEL NEAVE: The only alternative ~~in~~ to not having another witness for the Political Leaders is to go on to the three remaining for the Gestapo and SD. ~~You~~ They were put into this Commission in order that the other Commission could complete the SS. I think that is what we ~~intended to~~ will do, what Dr. Grube suggests. I think we will finish this final Political Leader this afternoon xxxxxxxxxxxxxx and bring this SD or Gestapo witness now.

DR. GRUBE: Under the conditions that he would be ready.

COLONEL NEAVE: He must be ready. I warned you last Saturday about this.

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COLONEL JONES: We might be able to deal with this witness on those matters which are general and not already been given before the Tribunal.

COLONEL NEAVE: The only difficulty is I don't see how to judge of that until I read the transcription. And a further difficulty is that Dr. Grube thinks the evidence that he is to give regarding the conspiracy ~~that~~ refers not to the Political Leaders ~~but to the Political Leaders~~ of the Auslandsorganisation, ~~not~~ but to the Political Leaders as a whole.

COLONEL JONES: Really, the evidence is always affecting a particular group of Political Leaders in the same way as other witnesses have dealt with other witnesses of other particular groups.

COLONEL NEAVE: Can you tell me whether the evidence in regard to the conspiracy of the Political Leaders of the Auslandsorganisation has ever been dealt with by Bohle?

COLONEL JONES: They have been dealt with to this extent that he has given, as this witness was about to give on general tasks and purpose of the organization which they carried out, and in particular the question of Fifth Column activities and preparation for war was dealt with.

DR. GRUBE: May I add that it is true that Bohle touched the subject of Fifth Column but certainly it was never exhaustively dealt with.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think there is some danger of wasting time if no witness can come before 2 o'clock. We had better take the fourth paragraph of your application here which apparently means that the Auslandsorganisation was not, as stated in the indictment, engaged in conspiracy. I think we can go on with paragraph 4 only.

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~~DR.XGRUBBE:~~

BY DR. GRUBBE:

Q Did the leadership of the Foreign Organization know that points 1, 2 and 3 of the party program? One, the demand for the union of all Germans, two, the demand for the application of the peace treaties of St. Germain and Versailles, and third, the demand for colonies. Did the leadership of the Foreign Organization know that these three points were points of a program of the conquest of foreign territory?

A No, and I believe I can speak for my comrades as well, if I say we believed that the ~~reliability~~ organization of those three points were supposed to be carried out in accordance with Wilson's 14 points and in accordance with basic principles of the Leage of Nations.

Q Was the Foreign Organization aware of the intention of the NSDAP to carry out its program and purposes with all means it saw fit, legal or illegal and that it finally was willing to resort to threat to violence and aggressive warfare?

A. No. I believe we believed that those things should be accompanied by a peaceful revision of the peace treaties of 1918 and 1919 and that was in accordance with the repeated pledges made by Hitler in his various speeches.

Q. But the Foreign Organization was aware of measures like Germany's leaving the League of Nations, the re-introduction of general military service, the up-building of the German Air Force and similar measures?

A. Yes.

Q. How was the general attitude of the Foreign Organization and the Political Leaders toward a war?

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A. The Political Leaders of the Foreign Organization opposed the idea of a war because the Germans ~~xxxxxx~~ abroad always were the first victims of such a war.

Q. Did the leaders of the Foreign Organization realize that war against Poland was planned?

A. No, in no way.

Q. Were the leaders of the various groups of the of the Foreign Organization in the foreign countries prepared for such a war?

A. No and that can best be proven by the fact that we had a big congress ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ of Germans abroad in the city of Graz in August 1939 just before the out-break of war and they ~~participated~~ Germans from all countries even from overseas participated.

Q. Could you mention other incidents which would prove that other officials in other offices of the Party were surprised by the out-break of the war and therefore were not informed of its being planned?

A. I can't answer. Yes, as far as the Foreign Organization and its head office is concerned which never had issued any instructions to those groups abroad for the case of the out-break of such a war.

Q. Page 4 of the German Text of the indictment charges that the entitled individuals and organizations which would include political leaders, maintains the plans that war was a noble and useful occupation for the Germans. Did you ever hear that the Foreign Organization did teach and spread that doctrine and were you ever taught such thought?

A. Never. I was told that war was desirable and was to be accomplished by the Germans. However, we were told that it was the duty of every German to serve his country in the case of war as a whole.

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Q. Did you know in the Head Office of the Foreign Organization that the party program in points 4 and 6 demanded ~~xxxx~~ after 1933 and carried out the getting rid of the influence of the Jews for the purpose of preparing and carrying out an agressive war?

A. No. Certainly not. Those measures were a result of the principle attitude of the NSDAP toward the race problem. I must add that the treatment of that question both ~~xx~~ within the leadership and in the foreign groups of the Foreign Organization was very different from that treatment that question experience within the Reich.

Q. What was the attitude of the Foreign Organization and its leadership toward the Jewish question?

A. Due to its position within the economic sphere, the Germans abroad had a very different attitude toward the Jewish question. They feared and knew that the carrying out of anti-Jewish measures similiar to those practiced within the Reich would result in increased boycott against the Germans abroad. I remind you of the anti-German boycott in the United States in 1933 and 1934 and the boycott which followed the anti-Jewish measure of November 8 and 9, 1938.

Q. The indictment on Page 4 charges further that the entitled individuals and organizations which includes political leaders, maintains the principle that the people of so-called German blood belonged to a master race which would entitle them to suppress ~~xxxx~~ and domineer other people and the members of other countries. Did the Foreign Organization or its leadership ever teach such a doctrine and were you ever taught such a doctrine?

A. No. The Germans abroad knew the world and the leadership of the Foreign Organization would have made itself utterly ridiculous if they

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had spread such doctrines before the Germans abroad. I may in this connection refer to the Chief of the Germans abroad, Gauleiter Bohle who was born in England and today is in an English dominion in South Africa and who always out of a knowledge of the word warned against an over estimation of German gifts and capacity and a German plan for leadership.

Q. Did you know or did the Foreign Organization know that point 6 of the party program demanded the abolition of the so-called corruption parliamentation for the purpose of the preparation of war by Hitler?

A. At that time when that measure was taken I personally was still quite young but I don't think that any of us thought that through the seizure of power that a war would be planned and prepared for. As far as we young people were concerned the parliamentary democracy in Germany had been a failure.

Q. Do you know that the Nazi Party introduced the Fuhrerprinzir, the plans of a leader into Germany for the purpose of domineering the German people so that they could prepare for a war?

A. No. I think I believe that the German people at that time desired a strong leadership so that they would be able to get out of the suffering and distress but certainly not for the preparation for war and that is equally true for the leadership and the membership within the NSDAP.

Q. Finally as a further proof of the conspiracies and the crimes and the intentions, the indictment refers to point 22 of the party program function which as far as we demanded the abolition of a military measure and demanded the furthering of the peoples' militia. Didn't that point give cause for suspicion that the NSDAP was planning wars?

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A. No, on the behalf of my conviction it isn't. No. If I might answer that with a slogan that I might say that we were inspired by the thought "If you want peace then prepare for war" because we desired to be able to carry on our domestic program without external interference.

Q. On page 18 of the German trial brief the indictment continues: "Under the leadership corporation the party still domineered the German state and the indictment points as a proof to a large number of laws and directives. I would like to point to a number of laws; the empowering laws of March 24, 1933, the law forbidding the formation of new points of July 14, 1933; the law guaranteeing the unity of state and party of December 1, 1933; the law of August 1, 1934 which unified the offices of Reich president and Reich chancellor within the person of the leader of the NSDAP. No one can deny that through those measures the leaders of the NSDAP were empowered to exercise much influence on the leadership of the German state and actually exerted the influence. I ask the witness, would the leadership of the Foreign Organization know that the party leadership assumed that power for the purpose of preparing and controlling the German people for the conduct of war?

A. No. Certainly not and I do not know of any instances that the leaders of the NSDAP would have used its influence for such purposes. As far as the Foreign Organization of the party is concerned I may state that its officials abroad were subordinate to the chief of the mission. That means ambassador or the other officials for the German foreign office and for that reason alone it would be impossible to exert any influence on the conduct of

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affairs of the German state abroad.

Q. Did the leadership of the Foreign Organization know that the so-called protective custody and the concentration camps were introduced to enable the party to prepare for warfare?

A. No. The political leaders of the Foreign Organization knew of the concentration camps only that they were organized for holding anti-social elements and people politically hostile towards the state. We did not know and the people abroad could not know at all of the things continuously going on in those camps.

Q. Is it true that the leaders of the foreign groups of the Foreign Organization paid a visit to the concentration camp at Sarenhausen in 1943 for the purpose to determine whether the rumor which had been spread abroad in regard to the concentration camps, whether those were true or not?

A. Yes, that is true and I might express that the concentration camps at Sachsenhausen amd Oranienburg were identical.

Q. Give us a few details how that inspection was arranged for and what its results were.

A. The leader of our groups, particularly in neutral countries had again and again reported that the enemy propaganda had used reports about atrocities supposedly to be carried on within the concentration camps and they stressed that the Germans abroad were about to believe those reports. Early in 1943 there took place in Berlin a conference of the leaders of all our groups in European countries and the Reichsführer in SS received those leaders of our groups abroad at the field commando station I believe some place in the East. I may state that I personally did not participate in the

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conference because I had just been discharged from a hospital where I had been stationed after having been severely wounded in Africa. The leaders of groups abroad informed the ~~Reichsführer~~ Reichsfuehrer in SS on the reports spread abroad in regard to the concentration camps and they very openly asked him whether those atrocities actually were happening. I subsequently informed ~~him~~ them that they would be permitted to visit one of the following days at Sarenhausen Concentration Camp. As far as I remember all of the foreign group leaders did attend but ~~not~~ in any case from the neutral countries did attend and I distinctly remember how much more friendly and happy they felt internally when they returned to Berlin after that inspection convinced that that propaganda spread abroad was nothing but lies and I may say in regard to my own person that I felt freed and relieved after having heard the reports by the group leaders on their visit to Sarenhausen which I had not participated in and my own personal knowledge on concentration camps dates back to those reports received and have them.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think you can stop there. How much do you ~~wish~~ intend to ask this witness in regard to paragraph 4 of the statement?

DR. GRUBE: There may be about 25 questions left, sir.

COLONEL NEAVE: 25 questions on paragraph 4?

DR. GRUBE: Yes.

COLONEL NEAVE: H ow many questions did you have on the other three? You say there are going to be 25 more questions on the conspiracy of the political leaders of the NSDAP. I am not exactly satisfied with this witness and I would like to study the transcript myself. Since If there is a new

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commission coming on after lunch I would greatly prefer if we could hear Mueller.

[redacted].

DR. GRUBE: Yes.

COLONEL NEAVE: And I will study the transcript and you had better come see me ~~x~~ this afternoon about 5 o'clock and we will then decide the points which do not seem to be covered by gauleiter Bohle and which this witness is expected to deal with.

COLONEL JONES: You will see that evidence in Bohle's affidavit ~~which~~ is read and appears on page 6447.

COLONEL NEAVE: What is the date of his transcript?

COLONEL JONES: 25 March and he is cross examined by Dr. Servatius for the leadership corps ~~section~~ quite briefly on 6454 and ~~xxx~~ by myself on the same page.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think it is very important that we should not have witnesses repeating what has already been said, but I am quite ready to admit that there may be some other thing that the witness von Roedern can tell but I want to talk it over with you first.

DR. GRUBE: May I state the reason why we attach importance to this witness. First he should be heard about the question of intelligence service. Bohle wasn't in any position to make a statement on it. All he can say is, "I did not know of secret sender, etc."

COLONEL NEAVE: That is precisely what we will discuss this afternoon at 5 and if we decide to hear him further, we will do so tomorrow morning. In the meantime we will hear Richard Mueller at 2 o'clock.

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DR. GRUBE: Did you feel, Commissioner, that the point 4, the hearihg of that witness should be brought toward an end today because he has to make very important statements on the Staff Rosenberg.

COLONEL NEAVE: No. I prefer to discuss this matter after reading the transcript and I think that Mueller should be the next witness. He should finish today anyway as he is going to be within the 3 hour limit.

Commission recessed at 1300 hours.

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of GRAF von ROEDERN, taken on 1 July 1946.

Marjorie A Sweeney
Reporter (pp 1-17

CERTIFIED TO :

Ann Keane
Commissioner

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H1023-0020

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GRAF von ROEDERN, a witness took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Will the witness stand, raise his right hand and repeat after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath)

Q. What is your full name?

A. Graf von Roedern.

Q. You may sit down.

Dr. GRUBE: Dr. Grube for Dr. Servatus, I have a request to the commission and the prosecution on the just matters against the NSDAP that the work is a 5th Columnist in foreign countries. One means of that work of Fifth Columnist was supposedly the so-called Auslandsorganisation foreign organization of the NSDAP. Therefore, the Defense is compelled to hear that witness not only on the weaker points of the indictment but above all to the charge that the Auslandsorganization is a foreign organization acted as a Fifth Column. I therefore feel that we will not get along with the usual time of three hours allotted to one witness and I would like to request to limit the hearing of this witness not to the usual three hours but to permit approximately four hours. And I might add that that would be the first witness for the Political Leaders who would be here longer than three hours. I therefore, would like you to permit the hearing four hours.

COLONEL NEAVE: That would be four hours including cross-examination. That is what you mean?

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COLONEL NEAVE: That would be four hours including cross-examination. That is what you mean?

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DR. GRUNE: It is.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think we will hear the witness first and it will depend upon the relevancy of his evidence on what devision I will make or the Commissioner who will follow me will make. But I agree that in general it does seem to be a big subject. Have you not vocered this at all with any of your witnesses?

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COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: I would like to say the matter was very fully covered before the Tribunal during the Hess case. Certainly Bohle was called as a witness simply on the question on the Fifth Columnist of the Auslands-organisation and dealt with the whole matter.

COLONEL A.M.S.NEAVE: Did the counsel for the Polit ical Leaders examine the witness? Dr. Grube, you ought to know.

DR. GRUBE: There was no witness heard on that subject before the commission.

COLONEL NEAVE: I know that. The question you are being asked is whether Defense Counsel for the Political Leaders examined the witnesses Gauleiter Bohle during the Hess case.

DR. GRUBE: I don't think so. I don't know that. As far as I know Bohle was called as witness for Hess and was called as such witness for the Counsel fo Political Leaders.

COLONEL NEAVE: So he appeared to describe the Auslandsorganization.

DR. GRUBE: Yes. He was heard on the Auslandsorganization to some extent but most of his answers were highly spoken and he did not make any definite complete statements.

COLONEL NEAVE: Will you obtain before the Commission resumes at 2 o'clock a copy of the transcript of the evidence of Gaulieter Bohle on this subject which I suppose took place some time around March or April. In the meantime we will proceed with the witness but I would like you to bear in mind what has just been said and then whether we should make an exception of the rule that witnesses will be heard for three hours will depend on how far this subject has been covered. Will you go on?

H1023 – 0023

DIRECT EXAMINATION:

BY DR. GRUBE

Q. When and where were you born?

A. November 14, 1911 in Berlin.

Q. What educational and professional training have you had?

A. I attended the so-called Gymnasium then I studies law in Geneva, Berlin, and Munich. I obtained two German legal degrees, one called referendar and the other called assessor and I worked also in a bank and in a trading house.

Q. Since when did you belong to the Nazi Party?

A. Since April 1, 1933.

Q. Why did you join the party?

A. Previously I had belonged to the Youthstal, the Junior Organization of the Stahlch and I felt that after the seizure of power of the NSDAP, national forces should unite and forget their previous differences and unite for the re-building of Germany

Q. Is it true that from April 1938 to the fall of 1939 you worked as head of the League Office of the Foreign Organization of the NSDAP and that at the same time you acted as an assistant judge in the court of the Foreign Organization?

A. Yes, I worked as such in the head office of the Foreign Organization.

Q. Is it true that you participated in the fall of '39 in the political labor campaign and that subsequently you were an Ordnance Officer to General von Reindstedt?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it true that from November 1940 until April 1942 you conducted the affairs of the Chief of the Foreign Organization in France?

A. Yes.

Q. And from May 1942 until February 1943 you were Chief of a company in the African campaign?

A. Yes.

Q. And from March 1943 until November '44 you were personnel assistant to the Chief of the Foreign Organization for Bohle?

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A. Yes

Q. And what was your function in that capacity?

A. My function was to prepare the decisions of the Gauleiter. I was liaison man to an organization called Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle. I was the representative for the prosecution in the party court and by request of Gauleiter Bohle I handled the personnel files of the employees of the Foreign Office.

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Q. Who was eligible for membership in the foreign organization?

A. Only German citizens. That means Germans who possessed a German passport.

Q. Now that means that foreigners could not join the foreign organisation of the NSDAP?

A. No foreigners could become members of the organization.

Q. Could former Germans who had acquired a citizenship of another country, could they join the foreign organization?

A. German citizens who had acquired the nationality of a foreign country and therefore in accordance with German laws had lost the German citizenship, could not become members of the organization.

H1023 - 0025

Q What do you understand by the word Volksdeutsche?

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Really, all this evidence of the members of the Auslandsorganisation has all been gone into exhaustively before the Tribunal so this evidence cannot be of assistance to members of the Tribunal all overagain. It is purely of an explanatory nature having been given once it cannot possibly assist the cause of the Political Leaders by being repeated again now. Particularly if it was made by the chief.

Bohle's affidavit was submitted and read to the Tribunal at Page 6447 of the English Transcript. He was then asked various questions on behalf of some of the defendants and he was then cross-examined by myself commencing on Page 6454.

COLONEL NEAVE: Dr. Grube, in order to be quite fair about this, we will withdraw this witness now but we will hold him in Nuremberg. I wish to examine the transcript and discuss the matter with you tomorrow morning. Have you got another witness on the list after this one?

DR. GRUBE: No sir, not yet. Witness Dr. Mueller is scheduled for tomorrow morning.

COLONEL NEAVE: I see. I can quite understand there might be some new subjects you want to bring up through von Roedern but I can't possibly make a decision on the matter unless I have the opportunity to read the transcript of the evidence of Bohle and in order to be fair to you we will withhold this witness until tomorrow before reaching a decision.

DR. GRUBE: Would that not be possible Mr. Commissioner to hear the witness on these general charges made against the Political Leaders, for instance crimes against the main conspiracy, etc?

COLONEL NEAVE: Is he being called on that subject as well? That is not exactly what your application says. It says that the Auslandsorganization was not engaged in the conspiracy. That may not be a correct translation into the German but that is what it appears to be.

DR. GRUBE: We understand it is the Political Leaders of the Auslandsorganization.

COLONEL NEAVE: It is the political leaders as a whole. That is what you mean isn't it?

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DR. GRUBE: Yes.

COLONEL NEAVE: Well I think as the whole of the evidence appears to concern the Auslandsorganisation it would be very much better if we considered this matter again after we read the transcript. I don't at all suggest there may not be other matters on which he can give evidence but in order to decide what they are, I wish to read the transcript first. Now you say that Mueller -- can Mueller not be called today?

DR. GRUBE: I haven't quite finished talking to him but I could try to talk to him now and possibly we could start with him at 2 o'clock.

COLONEL NEAVE: The only alternative to not having another witness for the Political Leaders is to go on to the three remaining for the Gestapo and SD. They were put into this Commission in order that the other Commission could complete the SS. I think we will finish this final Political Leader this afternoon and bring this SD or Gestapo witness now.

DR. GRUBE: Under the conditions that he would be ready.

COLONEL NEAVE: He must be ready. I warned you last Saturday about this.

COLONEL JONES: We might be able to deal with this witness on these matters which are general and not already been given before the Tribunal.

COLONEL NEAVE: The only difficulty is I don't see how to judge of that until I read the transcription. And a further difficulty is that Dr. Grube thinks the evidence that he is to give regarding the conspiracy refers not to the Political Leaders of the Auslandsorganisation, but to the Political Leaders as a whole.

COLONEL JONES: Really, the evidence is always affecting a particular group of Political Leaders in the same way as other witnesses have dealt with other witnesses of other particular groups.

COLONEL NEAVE: Can you tell me whether the evidence in regard to the conspiracy of the Political Leaders of the Auslandsorganisation has ever been dealt with by Bohle?

COLONEL JONES: They have been dealt with to this extent that he has given, as this witness was about to give on general tasks and purpose of the organization which they carried out, and in particular the question of Fifth

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Column activities and preparation for war was dealt with.

DR. GRUBE: May I add that it is true that Bohle touched the subject of Fifth Column but certainly it was never exhaustively dealt with.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think there is some danger of wasting time if no witness can come before 2 o'clock. We had better take the fourth paragraph of your application here which apparently means that the Auslandsorganisation was not, as stated in the indictment, engaged in conspiracy. I think we can go on with paragraph 4 only.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q Did the leadership of the Foreign Organization know points 1, 2 and 3 of the party program? One, the demand for the union of all Germans, two, the demand for the application of the peace treaties of St. Germain and Versailles, and third, the demand for colonies. Did the leadership of the Foreign Organization know that these three points were points of a program of the conquest of foreign territory?

A No, and I believe I can speak for my comrades as well, if I say we believed that the organization of these three points were supposed to be carried out in accordance with Wilson's 14 points and in accordance with basic principles of the League of Nations.

Q Was the Foreign Organization aware of the intention of the NSDAP to carry out its program and purposes with all means it saw fit, legal or illegal and that it finally was willing to resort to threat, to violence and aggressive warfare?

A No. I believe we believed that those things should be accompanied by a peaceful revision of the peace treaties of 1918 and 1919 and that was in accordance with the repeated pledges made by Hitler in his various speeches.

Q But the Foreign Organization was aware of measures like Germany's leaving the League of Nations, the re-introduction of general military service, the up-building of the German Air Force and similar measures?

A Yes.

Q How was the general attitude of the Foreign Organization and the Political Leaders toward a war?

A The Political Leaders of the Foreign Organization opposed the idea of

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a war because the Germans abroad always were the first victims of such a war.

Q Did the leaders of the Foreign Organization realize that war against Poland was planned?

A No, in no way.

Q Were the leaders of the various groups of the Foreign Organization in the foreign countries prepared for such a war?

A No and that can best be proven by the fact that we had a big congress of Germans abroad in the city of Graz in August 1939 just before the outbreak of war and the Germans from all countries, even from overseas, participated.

Q Could you mention other incidents which would prove that other officials in other offices of the Party were surprised by the outbreak of the war and therefore were not informed of its being planned?

A I can't answer. Yes, as far as the Foreign Organization and its head office is concerned which never had issued any instructions to these groups abroad for the case of the outbreak of such a war.

Q Page 4 of the German text of the indictment charges that the entitled individuals and organizations which would include political leaders, maintains the plans that war was a noble and useful occupation for the Germans. Did you ever hear that the Foreign Organization did teach and spread that doctrine and were you ever taught such thought?

A Never. I was told that war was desirable and was to be accomplished by the Germans. However, we were told that it was the duty of every German to serve his country in the case of war as a whole.

Q Did you know in the Head Office of the Foreign Organization that the party program in points 4 and 6 demanded after 1933 and carried out the getting rid of the influence of the Jews for the purpose of preparing and carrying out an aggressive war?

A No, certainly not. Those measures were a result of the principle attitude of the NSDAP toward the race problem. I must add that the treatment of that question both within the leadership and in the foreign groups of the Foreign Organization was very different from the treatment that question experienced within the Reich.

Q What was the attitude of the Foreign Organization and its leadership

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toward the Jewish question?

A Due to its position within the economic sphere, the Germans abroad had a very different attitude toward the Jewish question. They feared and knew that the carrying out of anti-Jewish measures similar to those practiced within the Reich would result in increased boycott against the Germans abroad. I remind you of the Anti-German boycott in the United States in 1933 and 1934 an the boycott which followed the anti-Jewish measure of November 8 and 9, 1938.

Q The indictment on Page 4 charges further that the entitled individuals and organizations which includes political leaders, maintains the principle that the people of so-called German blood belonged to a master race which would entitle them to suppress and domineer other people and the members of other countries. Did the Foreign Organization or its leadership ever teach such a doctrine and were you ever taught such a doctrine?

A No. The Germans abroad knew the world and the leadership of the Foreign Organization would have made itself utterly ridiculous if they

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had spread such doctrines before the Germans abroad. I may in this connection refer to the Chief of the Germans abroad, Gauleiter Bohle who was born in England and today is in an English dominion in South Africa and who always out of a knowledge of the word warned against an over estimation of German gifts and capacity and a German plan for leadership.

Q Did you know or did the Foreign Organization know that point 6 of the party program demanded the abolition of the so-called corrupt parliamentation for the purpose of the preparation of war by Hitler?

A At that time when that measure was taken I personally was still quite young but I don't think that any of us thought that through the seizure of power that a war would be planned and prepared for. As far as we young people were concerned the parliamentary democracy in Germany had been a failure.

Q Do you know that the Nazi Party introduced the Fuhrerprinzip, the plans of a leader into Germany for the purpose of dominerring the German people so that they could prepare for a war?

A No. I think I believe that the German people at that time desired a strong leadership so that they would be able to get out of the suffering and distress but certainly not for the preparation for war and that is equally true for the leadership and the membership within the NSDAP.

Q Finally as a further proof of the conspiracies and the crimes and the intentions, the indictment refers to point 22 of the party program function which as far as we demanded the abolition of a military measure and demanded the furthering of the peoples' militia. Didn't that point give cause for suspicion that the NSDAP was planning wars?

A No, on the behalf of my conviction it isn't. No. If I might answer that with a slogan that I might say that we were inspired by the thought "If you want peace then prepare forwar" because we desired to be able to carry on our domestic program without external interference.

Q On page 18 of the German trial brief of the indictment continues: "Under the leadership corporation the party still domineered the German state and the indictment points as a proof to a large number of laws and directives. I would like to point to a number of laws; the empowering laws

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of March 24, 1933, the law forbidding the formation of new points of July 14, 1933; the law guaranteeing the unity of state and party of December 1, 1933; the law of August 1, 1934 which unified the offices of Reich president and Reich Chancellor within the person of the leader of the NSDAP. No one can deny that through those measures the leaders of the NSDAP were empowered to exercise much influence on the leadership of the German state and actually exerted the influence. I ask the witness, would the leadership of the Foreign Organization know that the party leadership assumed that power for the purpose of preparing and controlling the German people for the conduct of war?

A No. Certainly not and I do not know of any instances that the leaders of the NSDAP would have used its influence for such purposes. As far as the Foreign Organization of the party is concerned I may state that its officials abroad were subordinate to the chief of the mission. That means ambassador or the other officials for the German foreign office and for that reason alone it would be impossible to exert any influence on the conduct of affairs of the German state abroad.

Q Did the leadership of the Foreign Organization know that the so-called protective custody and the concentration camps were introduced to enable the party to prepare for warfare?

A No. The political leaders of the Foreign Organization know of the concentration camps only that they were organized for holding anti-social elements and people politically hostile towards the state. We did not know and the people abroad could not know at all of the things continuously going on in those camps.

Q Is it true that the leaders of the foreign groups of the Foreign Organization paid a visit to the concentration camp at Sarenhausen in 1943 for the purpose to determine whether the rumor which had been spread abroad in regard to the concentration camps, whether those were true or not?

A Yes, that is true and I might express that the concentration camps at Sachsenhausen and Oranienburg were identical.

Q Give us a few details how that inspection was arranged for and what its results were.

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A The leader of our groups, particularly in neutral countries had again and again reported that the enemy propaganda had used reports about atrocities supposedly to be carried on within the concentration camps and they stressed that the Germans abroad were about to believe these reports. Early in 1943 there took place in Berlin a conference of the leaders of all our groups in European countries and the Reichsfuehrer in SS received these leaders of our groups abroad at the field commando station I believe some place in the East. I may state that I personally did not participate in the conference because I had just been discharged from a hospital where I had been stationed after having been severely wounded in Africa. The leaders of groups abroad informed the Reichsfuehrer in SS on the reports spread abroad in regard to the concentration camps and they very openly asked him whether these atrocities actually were happening. I subsequently informed them that they would be permitted to visit one of the following days at Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. As far as I remember all of the foreign group leaders did attend but in any case from the neutral countries did attend and I distinctly remember how much more friendly and happy they felt internally when they returned to Berlin after that inspection convinced them that propaganda spread abroad was nothing but lies and I may say in regard to my own person that I felt freed and relieved after having heard the reports by the group leaders on their visit to Sachsenhausen which I had not participated in and my own personal knowledge on concentration camps dates back to those reports received and have them.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think you can stop there. How much do you intend to ask this witness in regard to paragraph 4 of the statement?

DR. GRUBE: There may be about 25 questions left, sir.

COLONEL NEAVE: 25 questions on paragraph 4?

DR. GRUBE: Yes.

COLONEL NEAVE: How many questions did you have on the other three? You say there are going to be 25 more questions on the conspiracy of the political leaders of the NSDAP. I am not exactly satisfied with this witness and I would like to study the transcript myself. Since there is a new commission coming on after lunch I would prefer if we could hear Mueller.

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DR. GRUBE: Yes.

COLONEL NEAVE: And I will study the transcript and you had better come see me this afternoon about 5 o'clock and we will then decide the points which do not seem to be covered by gauleiter Bohle and which this witness is expected to deal with.

COLONEL JONES: You will see that evidence in Bohle's affidavit is read and appears on page 6447.

COLONEL NEAVE: What is the date of his transcript?

COLONEL JONES: 25 March and he is cross examined by Dr. Servatius for the leadership corps quite briefly on 2454 and by myself on the same page.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think it is very important that we should not have witnesses repeating what has already been said, but I am quite ready to admit that there may be some other thing that the witness von Roedern can tell but I want to talk it over with you first.

DR. GRUBE: May I state the reason why we attach importance to this witness. First he should be heard about the question of intelligence service. Bohle wasn't in any position to make a statement on it. All he can say is, "I did not know of secret sender, etc."

COLONEL NEAVE: That is precisely what we will discuss this afternoon at 5 and if we decide to hear him further, we will do so tomorrow morning. In the meantime we will hear Richard Mueller at 2 o'clock.

DR. GRUBE: Did you feel, Commissioner, that the point 4, the hearing of that witness should be brought toward an end today because he has to make very important statements on the Staff Rosenberg.

COLONEL NEAVE: No. I prefer to discuss this matter after reading the transcript and I think that Mueller should be the next witness. He should finish today anyway if he is going to be within the 3 hour limit.

(Commission recessed at 1300 hours.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of GRAF von ROEDERN, taken on 1 July 1946.

Marjorie Shumway
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

A.M.S. Neave
Commissioner